produced in that area during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) OIL has planned to drill 5 wells in the North Bank of river Brahmaputra in Lakhimpur area in the 8th plan.

Hydrocarbon discoveries have been made at Dikom, Kathaloni, North Hapjan and Makum in Upper Assam by Oil. dining the last three years. Crude oil production from these areas has already commenced.

(b) The quantum of production expected from these new areas in the South Bank in Upper Assam is 0.65 MMT in 1995-96 and 0.84 MMT in 1996-97. No hydrocarbon reserves have been established in the North Bank of Brahmaputra river.

**Maiming of unmanned level crossings**

*728. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have decided to man some of the unmanned level crossings in the country during the current year;

(b) if so, what is the number of such crossings to be manned and their details zone-wise; and

(c) how many unmanned level crossings will be there after the completion of the above work and by when the same will also be manned?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) About 500 busy and vulnerable unmanned level crossings are being manned during the current financial year. Zone-wise break up is given below:—

| Railway | No. of level crossings |
|---|---|
| Central | 67 |
| Eastern | 7 |
| Northern | 104 |
| North Eastern | 34 |
| Northeast Frontier | 2 |
| Southern | 83 |
| South Eastern | 22 |
| Western | 181 |
| Total | 500 |

(c) About 22560 Nos. To man the balance level crossings, which costs on an average about Rs. 5.00 lakh per level crossing, funds to the tune of Rs. 1133.00 crores are needed, besides, recurring expenditure of Rs. 136 crores (@ Rs. 60,000 per level crossing).

**Destruction of Trees Planned on Railway Land**

*729. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister-of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all matured trees planted under rural forestry scheme by Railways on both the sides of railway line from Bakhtiarpur to Biharsharif have been destroyed totally by the villagers of nearby villages; and

(b) if so, the detials thereof and steps taken by Railways to stop such offence?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However about 1800 trees aged between 10-12 years have been out and stolen. This being a law and order problem, complaint has been lodged with the Police authorities. Further action rests with the State Government. Railways have also intensified vigilance.